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SIEGE

CAPTAIN AMERICA

AT THE END OF WORLD WAR II, STEVE ROGERS–A.K.A. CAPTAIN AMERICA–AND HIS DEDICATED SIDEKICK BUCKY BARNES FOUGHT VALIANTLY TO DISARM AN EXPLOSIVE DRONE FLYING OVER THE NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN. WHILE THEY SUCCESSFULLY PREVENTED IT FROM REACHING ITS INTENDED TARGET, THE TWO HEROES WERE THOUGHT LOST FOREVER TO AN ICY GRAVE. EXTRAORDINARILY, HOWEVER, BOTH HEROES SURVIVED.

DECADES LATER, IN THE CIVIL WAR CAUSED BY THE SUPERHUMAN REGISTRATION ACT, STEVE ROGERS WAS ASSASSINATED, LEAVING BUCKY-RETURNED FROM HIS DAYS AS THE COMMUNIST CONTROLLED WINTER SOLDIER-TO PICK UP HIS FALLEN FRIEND'S MANTLE OF CAPTAIN AMERICA. STEVE HAS ALSO RETURNED AMIDST THE DARK REIGN OF NORMAN OSBORN, ONCE AGAIN DONNING THE STARS AND STRIPES.

NOW NORMAN OSBORN, THE FORMER GREEN GOBLIN PRESENTLY OPERATING UNDER THE ALIAS OF IRON PATRIOT WITH AN AVENGERS TEAM OF HIS OWN, HAS LAID SIEGE TO ASGARD. BUCKY AND STEVE HAVE ONCE AGAIN COME TOGETHER AS FRIENDS AND ALLIES TO STAND AGAINST OSBORN AND HIS INSANE AMBITIONS.

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SIEGE: CAPTAIN AMERICA No. 1, June, 2010. Published as a One-Shot by MARVEL WORLDWIDE, INC., a subsidiary of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT, LLC. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 417 5th Avenue, New York, NY 10016. © 2010 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. $2.99 per copy in the U.S. (GST #R127032852) in the direct market. Canadian Agreement #40668537. **Printed in the USA.** ALAN FINE, EVP - Office Of The President, Marvel Worldwide, Inc., and EVP & CMO Marvel Characters B.V.; DAN BUCKLEY, Chief Executive Officer and Publisher - Print, Animation & Digital Media; JIM SOKOLOWSKI, Chief Operating Officer; DAVID GABRIEL, SVP of Publishing Sales & Circulation; DAVID BOGART, SVP of Business Affairs & Talent Management; MICHAEL PASCIULLO, VP of Merchandising & Communications; JIM O'KEEFE, VP of Operations & Logistics; DAN CARR, Executive Director of Publishing Technology; JUSTIN F. CARR, Director of Publishing & Editorial Operations; SUSAN CRESPI, Editorial Operations Manager; ALEX MORALES, Publishing Operations Manager. STAN LEE, Chairman Emeritus. For information regarding advertising in Marvel Comics or on Marvel.com, please contact Ad Sterin, VP of Business Development, at rsterin@marvel.com. For Marvel subscription inquiries, please call 800-217-9158.

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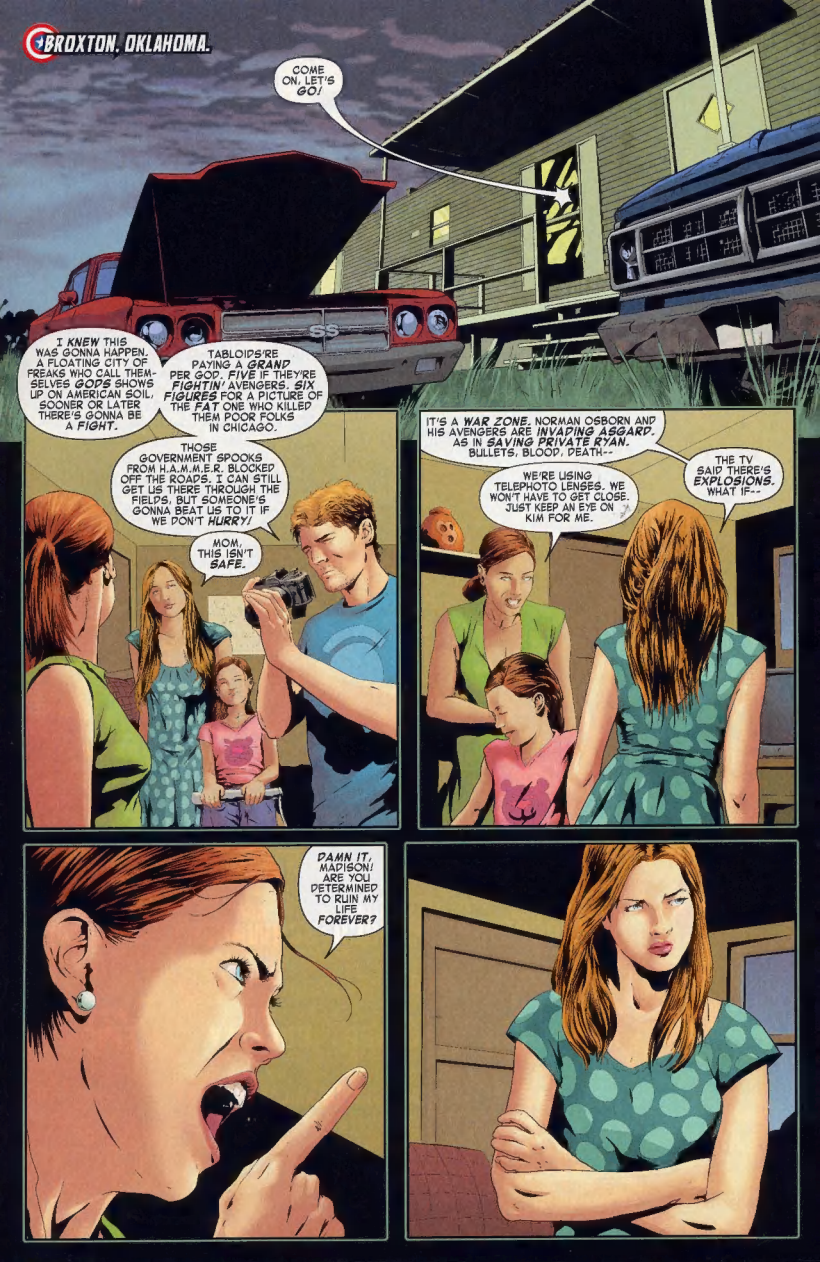

BROXTON, OKLAHOMA.
COME ON, LET'S GO!
I KNEW THIS WAS GONNA HAPPEN. A FLOATING CITY OF FREAKS WHO CALL THEMSELVES GODS SHOWS UP ON AMERICAN SOIL, SOONER OR LATER THERE'S GONNA BE A FIGHT.
TABLOIDS'RE PAYING A GRAND PER GOD. FIVE IF THEY'RE FIGHTIN' AVENGERS. SIX FIGURES FOR A PICTURE OF THE FAT ONE WHO KILLED THEM POOR FOLKS IN CHICAGO.
THOSE GOVERNMENT SPOOKS FROM H.A.M.M.E.R. BLOCKED OFF THE ROADS. I CAN STILL GET US THERE THROUGH THE FIELDS. BUT SOMEONE'S GONNA BEAT US TO IT IF WE DON'T HURRY!
MOM, THIS ISN'T SAFE.
IT'S A WAR ZONE. NORMAN OSBORN AND HIS AVENGERS ARE INVADING ASGARD. AS IN SAVING PRIVATE RYAN. BULLETS, BLOOD, DEATH--
WE'RE USING TELEPHOTO LENSES. WE WON'T HAVE TO GET CLOSE. JUST KEEP AN EYE ON KIM FOR ME.
THE TV SAID THERE'S EXPLOSIONS. WHAT IF--
DAMN IT, MADISON! ARE YOU DETERMINED TO RUIN MY LIFE FOREVER?

HONEY, I--
SUSIE, COME ON!
--AUTHORITIES URGE BROXTON RESIDENTS TO SEEK REFUGE. DO NOT STOP TO GATHER BELONGINGS. GO IMMEDIATELY TO THE NEAREST TORNADO SHELTER--
LET'S GO, SQUIRT.
WHERE?
MOM'S CAR. SOMEONE'S GOTTA BE THE GROWN-UP AROUND HERE.

BEAR ANY BURDEN

JIMMY... WE SHOULD GO.
ARE YOU KIDDING? THIS IS GOLD! LITERALLY!
WE CAN PAY OFF THE CREDIT CARDS, GET HEALTH INSURANCE, BUY A HOUSE, SEND THE KIDS TO COLLEGE...
MADISON?!
MOM! DAD! YOU NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE!
NOW WHAT THE HELL IS--
--THAT?
FABOOOM

IS IT FALLING? OH NO...
MADISON!! KIM!!
MADI--
MOM!!

HHHGGHH!
BUCKY!
NO. NOT BUCKY...HE'S CAPTAIN AMERICA NOW. THAT'S WHAT I WANTED.
EXCEPT I HAVE THE SHIELD. IT SAVED MY LIFE.
HE GAVE IT BACK TO ME.
PLEASE DON'T LET IT HAVE COST HIM HIS--

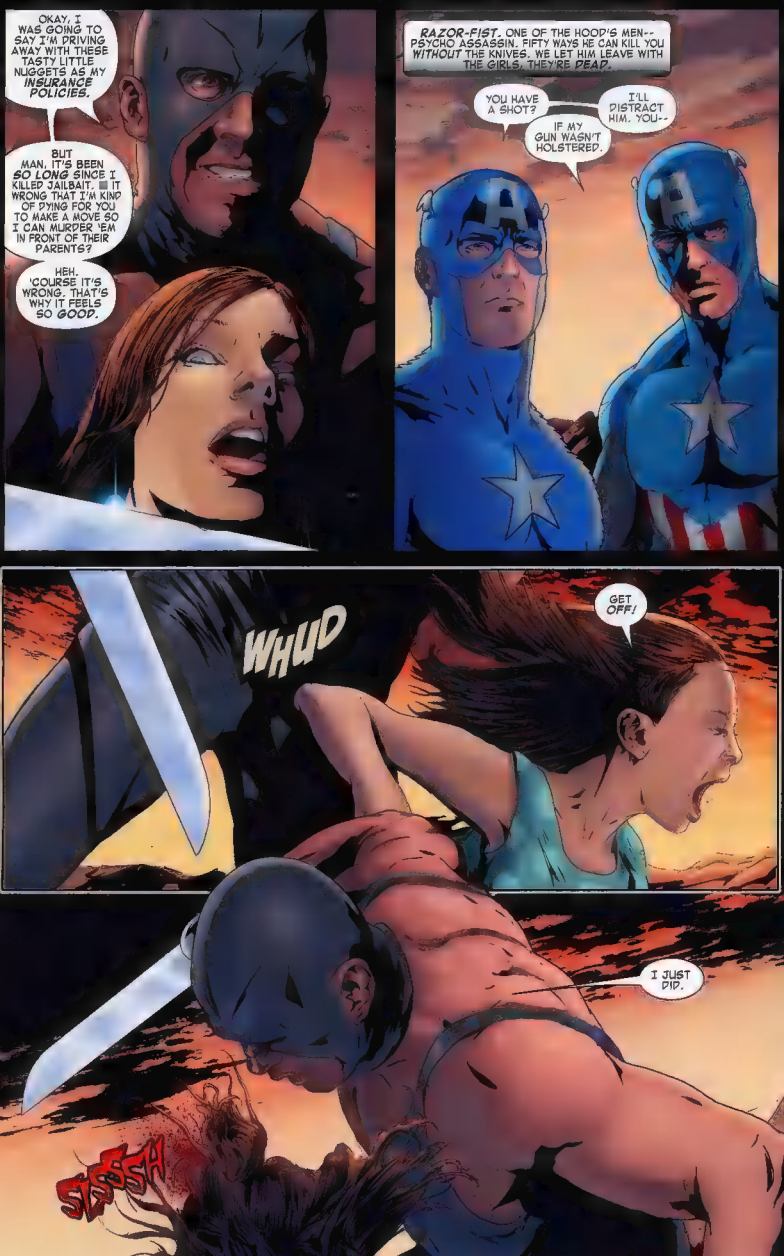
NO.
BLAM
PING
WHERE--?
ONE STEP AHEAD OF YOU.
WE LAID OUT AGENT AXIS WITH THE OLD LEFT HOOK/SHIELD COMBO BACK IN...WAS IT '44, STEVE?
KRNCH

BASTOGNE. YOU SCARED THE HELL OUT OF ME THEN, TOO. I ALMOST FORGOT OUR "PLAYING POSSUM" SIGNAL.
THE CROSSED FINGERS. I ALWAYS THOUGHT IT WAS TOO OBVIOUS. BUT THEY NEVER PICK UP ON IT.
THE OTHERS-- CLINT, BOBBI, LUKE...?
HAVEN'T SEEN THEM. BUT WE CAN SEARCH TOGETHER.
YOUR SHIELD--
JUST FOR NOW.
TODAY'S SHOWN ME MORE THAN EVER THAT *YOU'RE* THE MAN TO CARRY IT.
WISH I WAS HALF AS SURE AS *YOU*, STEVE.
CAREFUL. *CROSSFIRE* WAS JUST ONE OF ABOUT *TWENTY* KILLERS *THE HOOD* BROUGHT WITH HIM. AND HE'S *POWERED THEM UP* SOMEHOW.
YOU SEE THOSE *AIR FORCE* PLANES ATTACKING THE *H.A.M.M.E.R. HELICARRIER*? THAT MEANS THE PRESIDENT'S ON OUR SIDE NOW. WHICH MEANS THE HOOD'S MEN'LL BE *DESPERATE*--
HELP!

PLEASE. MY WIFE--MY DAUGHTERS--THEY WERE RIGHT NEXT TO ME AND NOW I CAN'T FIND THEM ANY-WHERE...
THERE WERE CIVILIANS HERE?
PLEASE... YOU GOTTA SAVE 'EM. I KNOW YOU CAN DO IT...
...YOU'RE CAPTAIN AMERICA.
WE'LL FIND THEM, SIR. BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP.
TAKE US TO WHERE YOU LAST SAW THEM.

TH-THESE ARE GODS, AND SOLDIERS IN BODY ARMOR. ALL DEAD. MY--MY YOUNGEST, SHE'S ONLY EIGHT YEARS OLD?...
THEN SHE NEEDS YOU. SO GET HOLD OF YOURSELF AND KEEP LOOKING.
STEVE THINKS I WAS TOO HARSH ON THE GUY.
HIS DAUGHTERS ARE PROBABLY DEAD. HIS WIFE, TOO. WHY'D STEVE HAVE TO TELL HIM WE'D FIND THEM?
AS IF I DON'T KNOW. BECAUSE IT WAS WHAT HE NEEDED TO HEAR TO KEEP FROM FALLING APART. WHAT HE NEEDED TO HEAR FROM CAPTAIN AMERICA.
STEVE'S USED TO THE BURDEN PEOPLE PLACE ON THIS UNIFORM. THE EXPECTATION THAT CAPTAIN AMERICA CAN DO ANYTHING...
BUT IT'S A HEAVY THING TO BEAR. AND I NEVER WANTED IT.
STEVE ASKED ME TO KEEP IT. AND I'D DO ANYTHING FOR HIM. FOR AS LONG AS HE NEEDS. BUT I KNOW HIM. HE NEVER STOPPED TO ASK THE KEY QUESTION.
SHOULD I [redacted] CAPTAIN AMERICA?
HERE!

SUSIE! OH, BABY, ARE YOU--
EASY. YOUR ARM'S BROKEN. ARE YOU HURT ANYWHERE ELSE?
NO...M-MY KIDS. WHERE ARE MY KIDS--
WE'RE LOOKING FOR THEM. WHERE DID YOU [redacted] THEM LAST?
I THINK... THEY WERE...
...THERE.
AIN'T THIS A KICK IN THE HEAD.


OKAY. I WAS GOING TO SAY I'M DRIVING AWAY WITH THESE TASTY LITTLE NUGGETS AS MY INSURANCE POLICIES.
BUT MAN, IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE I KILLED TAILBAIT. IT WRONG THAT I'M KIND OF DYING FOR YOU TO MAKE A MOVE SO I CAN MURDER 'EM IN FRONT OF THEIR PARENTS?
HEH. 'COURSE IT'S WRONG. THAT'S WHY IT FEELS SO GOOD.
RAZOR-FIST. ONE OF THE HOOD'S MEN-- PSYCHO ASSASSIN. FIFTY WAYS HE CAN KILL YOU WITHOUT THE KNIVES. WE LET HIM LEAVE WITH THE GIRLS. THEY'RE DEAD.
YOU HAVE A SHOT?
I'LL DISTRACT HIM. YOU--
IF MY GUN WASN'T HOLSTERED.
WHUD
GET OFF!
I JUST DID.
SSSSSH

KANG
SON OF A--
MADISON!
SPANG
I'VE GOT HER! GET YOUR OTHER DAUGHTER!
I CAN SAVE HER, HE MISSED THE JUGULAR!
YEAH, HE MISSED IT...ON *PURPOSE*. SO STEVE'D HAVE TO TEND TO HER. SO HE COULD FIGHT US ONE AT A TIME.
DOESN'T MATTER. I CAN HANDLE HIM. I *HAVE* TO... OR EVERYONE ELSE *DIES*.

GUY'S GOOD. EVERY STRIKE A LETHAL ONE. LIKE A SNAKE.
LIKE ME.
BOTH OF US TRAINED TO KILL WITH MAXIMUM EFFICIENCY. I WAS BRAINWASHED AT THE TIME. BUT EVEN SO...
...MY METHODS AREN'T STEVE'S. WHEN HE WAS GONE IT DIDN'T MATTER. BUT NOW THAT PEOPLE KNOW HE'S BACK...
...WHAT'LL THAT DO TO THE SYMBOL? TO WHAT CAPTAIN AMERICA MEANS TO PEOPLE? DID STEVE CONSIDER THAT?
AND WHAT'LL THE SYMBOL DO TO ME?
SPANG
OTHERS HAVE WORN THE UNIFORM. I READ ABOUT THEM. WALKER. NASLUND. THAT POOR KID ROSCOE. IT ENDED BADLY FOR ALL OF 'EM.

CARELESS. PAY ATTENTION. QUIT WHINING AND BE A MAN.
STEVE CHOSE YOU. YOUR BEST FRIEND ASKED YOU TO CARRY A BURDEN I CAN'T SHOULDER RIGHT NOW.
HE KNOWS WE'VE GOT DIFFERENT METHODS. THAT'S NOTHING NEW...
...IT'S AS OLD AS THE WAR.
DOESN'T MATTER IF OUR TACTICS [illegible] DIFFERENT. OUR DREAM'S THE [illegible]

LOOK AT THIS GUY. HAVING THE TIME OF HIS LIFE.
WE'RE BOTH KILLERS. BUT THERE'S A *DIFFERENCE*.
KZZT
HE *ENJOYS* IT.
HE'S A *MURDERER*. DOING WHAT HE *WANTS* TO.
I'M A *SOLDIER*.
DOING WHAT I *HAVE* TO.

KIM! HONEY, LOOK--
ONLY ONE SHOT--GONNA NEED BOTH HANDS--
--OUT--
BRRMMM
MOVE IT!

YOUR ARM...
I'M FINE. BUT KIM--
I'M OKAY, MOMMY.
ARE YOU... CAPTAIN AMERICA?
YEAH.
YEAH, I AM.
BUCK!

OH.
RRRAAAGGHH!
NO TIME...
RUN.
AND DON'T LOOK BACK!
SKANG

THE GIRL'S STABLE. HER FATHER'S GOT HER.
YOU'RE NOT UP AGAINST CIVILIANS NOW, MONSTER. OR DISTRACTED OPPONENTS.
GOT THAT RIGHT.
KRSH
YOU'RE UP AGAINST CAPTAIN AMERICA...
...AND CAPTAIN AMERICA!

YOUR HAND--I KNOW IT'S THE BIONIC ONE, BUT--
IT'S FINE. HE DIDN'T HIT ANYTHING IMPORTANT.
THE CIVILIANS--
HEADED FOR THE HOSPITAL. THEY'LL BE OKAY.
BUT OTHERS ARE STILL TRAPPED. IT'S ONLY BEEN A COUPLE MINUTES...
I HEAR YOU, PARTNER. LET'S GO...
...WE'RE NEEDED.
CONTINUED IN SIEGE #4

SIEGE

CHECKLIST

DECEMBER

- ☑ SIEGE: THE CABAL
- ☑ AVENGERS: THE INITIATIVE #31
- ☑ ORIGINS OF SIEGE

JANUARY

- ☑ SIEGE #1
- ☑ AVENGERS: THE INITIATIVE #32
- ☑ DARK AVENGERS #13
- ☑ DARK WOLVERINE #82
- ☑ NEW AVENGERS #61
- ☑ SIEGE: EMBEDDED #1
- ☑ SIEGE: STORMING ASGARD - HEROES & VILLAINS

FEBRUARY

- ☑ SIEGE #2
- ☑ AVENGERS: THE INITIATIVE #33
- ☑ DARK AVENGERS #14
- ☑ DARK WOLVERINE #83
- ☑ NEW AVENGERS #62
- ☑ SIEGE: EMBEDDED #2
- ☑ THOR #607
- ☑ THUNDERBOLTS #141

MARCH

- ☑ SIEGE #3
- ☑ AVENGERS: THE INITIATIVE #34
- ☑ DARK AVENGERS #15
- ☑ DARK WOLVERINE #84
- ☑ MIGHTY AVENGERS #35
- ☑ NEW AVENGERS #63
- ☑ NEW MUTANTS #11
- ☑ SIEGE: EMBEDDED #3
- ☑ THOR #608
- ☑ THUNDERBOLTS #142

APRIL

- ☐ SIEGE #4
- ☐ AVENGERS: THE INITIATIVE #35
- ☐ DARK AVENGERS #16
- ☐ FALLEN (not final title)
- ☐ MIGHTY AVENGERS #36
- ☐ NEW AVENGERS #64
- ☐ SIEGE: CAPTAIN AMERICA
- ☐ SIEGE: EMBEDDED #4
- ☐ SIEGE: LOKI
- ☐ SIEGE: SECRET WARRIORS
- ☐ SIEGE: SPIDER-MAN
- ☐ SIEGE: YOUNG AVENGERS
- ☐ THOR #609
- ☐ THUNDERBOLTS #143

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